

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of storing an initial use date of a printer, comprising the steps of:
 2. determining whether the printer is used for the first time; and
 3. storing the initial use date in a storage of the printer if the printer is used for the first time.

2. A method of informing an initial use date of a printer, comprising the steps of:
 - (1) providing data stored in a storage to a host by the printer when a printer driver is installed, the storage including a first area for storing information indicating whether the initial use data was stored and a second area for recording the initial use date;
 - (2) determining whether the initial use date was stored referring to the data indicating the presence or absence of the initial use date by the host;
 - (3) providing a current year/month/date to the printer by the host if the initial use date was not stored;
 - (4) storing the current year/month/date received from the host as the initial use date in the second area of the storage and information indicating that the initial use date was stored by the printer; and
 - (5) outputting the initial use date from the storage by the printer upon receipt of a user command.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the step (3) comprises the steps of:

2 displaying a first message asking whether a year/month/date counted by an internal counter
3 is identical to the current year/month/date by the host if the initial use date was not stored;
4 providing the counted year/month/date as the current year/month/date to the printer by the
5 host upon receipt of a positive response from a user;
6 displaying a second message requesting the user to enter the current year/month/date by the
7 host upon receipt of a negative response from the user; and
providing a year/month/date received from the user as the current year/month/date to the
printer by the host upon receipt of the year/month/date from the user.

4. The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of transferring data from said printer
to a computer attached to said printer.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein said initial use date is entered into said computer by a
2 user.

1 6. The method of claim 4, wherein said computer counts the date via an internal clock and
2 registers the time and the date into memory of the printer if said time and date are correct.

1 7. A method for initializing a printer attached to a computer, comprising the steps of:
2 electrically connecting said printer to said computer;
3 applying power to both said computer and said printer;

4 installing a printer driver into said computer;
5 sending data from a memory space in said printer to said computer;
6 determining whether said printer has an initial date stored in said memory of said printer; and
7 typing in an initial start date by a user into said computer if said initial date is absent from
8 said memory of said printer.

8. The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of having the computer furnish said initial date of said printer if a clock on said computer is accurate.

9. The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of storing said initial date of said printer in said memory in said printer.